CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method for using a computer system to permit a reader of

a text that is presented on a computer display controlled by the computer system

to optimize the rate at which text is presented, comprising the steps of:

determining the location on the computer display at which text is being read aloud

by the reader; ~~and~~

defining a region of the display as a neutral zone, such that the rate of text

presentation does not change appreciably when the text being read aloud is

displayed in a neutral zone; and

defining at least one additional region of the display as a variable zone, wherein

the rate of text presentation changes as a function of time while text being read

aloud is displayed in said variable zone.

~~varying the rate at which text is presented in response to the result of the location~~

~~determining step.~~

2.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

defining a cursor location as a location on the display corresponding to the location at which text is being read aloud;

defining a neutral zone as at least one region of the display at which reading preferably takes place;

defining at least one region of the display as a deceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text which comes before the text displayed in the neutral zone at any given time, such that when the defined cursor signifies a location within a deceleration zone, the rate of text presentation decreases according to a mathematical function of the distance between the location signified by the cursor and the neutral zone; and

defining at least one region of the display as an acceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text which comes after the text displayed in the neutral zone at any given time, such that when the defined cursor signifies a location within an acceleration zone, the rate of text presentation increases according to a mathematical function of the distance between the location signified by the cursor and the neutral zone.

such that when the location where text is being read corresponds to a variable zone, said change in rate of text presentation is a function of the distance between the location where text is being read and said neutral zone.

3.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of defining a region of the display as a neutral zone, such that the rate of text presentation does not change appreciably when the text being read aloud is displayed in a neutral zone.~~ wherein at least one said variable zone is an acceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text which comes after the text displayed in the neutral zone at any given time, such that while the text being read aloud is displayed within an acceleration zone, the rate of text presentation increases.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining input to the computer system that stops continued scrolling of the text.

5.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~4, wherein the input to the computer system that stops continued scrolling of the text comprises defining at least one region of the display as a stop zone, such that when a defined cursor signifies a stop zone, further scrolling of text ceases.~~ wherein at least one said variable zone is an acceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text which comes after the text displayed in the neutral zone at any

given time, such that while the text being read aloud is displayed within an

acceleration zone, the rate of text presentation increases; and

at least one said variable zone is a deceleration zone, associated with the

presentation of text which comes before the text displayed in the neutral zone at

any given time, such that while the text being read aloud is displayed within a

deceleration zone, the rate of text presentation decreases.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining input to the

computer system that causes the text to scroll backwards.

7.   (currently amended) The method of claim 3̶1, wherein~~wherein changes in the rate~~

~~of text presentation depend on a function of the distance between the location at~~

~~which text is being read aloud and a neutral zone.~~

at least one said variable zone is a deceleration zone, associated with the

presentation of text which comes before the text displayed in the neutral zone at

any given time, such that while the text being read aloud is displayed within a

deceleration zone, the rate of text presentation decreases.

8.   (currently amended) The method of claim 3̶, ~~wherein the rate of text presentation~~

~~depends on a function of distance between the location at which text is being read~~

~~aloud and a neutral zone.~~ 1, wherein the location at which text is being read aloud

is specified using a cursor-control device.

9.   (currently amended) The method of claim 2̶1, further comprising the step of

defining at least one zone graphically.

10.   The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of defining at least one zone

by using a cursor control device to specify its limits and shape.

11.   (currently amended) The method of claim 2̶1, wherein at least one zone is

differentiated from <u>at least one</u> other zone̶s by differing attributes of characters

displayed within t̶h̶e̶ at least o̶n̶e̶<u>two</u> zone<u>s</u>.

12.   (currently amended) The method of claim 2̶1, wherein at least one zone is

differentiated from <u>at least one</u> other zone̶s by differing attributes of the display

background within t̶h̶e̶ at least o̶n̶e̶<u>two</u> zone<u>s</u>.

13.   (currently amended) The method of claim 2̶1, wherein the location of at least one

zone m̶a̶y̶ ̶b̶e̶ ̶c̶h̶a̶n̶g̶e̶d̶ ̶d̶e̶p̶e̶n̶d̶i̶n̶g̶ ̶o̶n̶ <u>is responsive to</u> the location at which text is

being read.

14.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the location at which text is

being read is determined by use of v̶o̶i̶c̶e̶ ̶r̶e̶c̶o̶g̶n̶i̶t̶i̶o̶n̶ software<u> that recognizes

human speech</u>.

15.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1<u>4</u>, wherein the computer system

determines the location at which text is being read aloud by comparing what is

said with what is written in the electronic text.

16.   The method of claim 1, wherein the text is supplied over a network.

17.   The method of claim 1, wherein information about the location at which text is

being read aloud is provided over a network.

18.   (currently amended) The method of claim 2<u>8</u>, wherein the cursor is not presented

on a display device.

19.   (currently amended) A computer memory storage device encoded with a

computer program for using a computer system to display electronic text

comprising:

means for determining the location on the computer display at which text is being

read aloud by the reader; ~~and~~

<u>means for defining a region of the display as a neutral zone, such that the rate of</u>

<u>text presentation does not change appreciably when the text being read aloud is</u>

<u>displayed in a neutral zone; and</u>

means for defining at least one additional region of the display as a variable zone, wherein the rate of text presentation changes as a function of time while text being read aloud is displayed in said variable zone.

~~means for varying the rate at which text is presented in response to the result of the location-determining step.~~

20.   (currently amended) A computer system for displaying electronic text comprising:

a display device controlled by the computer, said display device imaging a portion of said text controlled by the computer system;

means for determining the location on the computer display at which text is being read aloud by the reader; ~~and~~

means for defining a region of the display as a neutral zone, such that the rate of text presentation does not change appreciably when the text being read aloud is displayed in a neutral zone; and

means for defining at least one additional region of the display as a variable zone, wherein the rate of text presentation changes as a function of time while text being read aloud is displayed in said variable zone.

means for varying the rate at which text is presented in response to the result of the location-determining step.